



Media Advisory

United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
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Navy's FORCEnet Chief Engineer to Retire

Rear Adm. Slaght's Role Essential for Capability Development, Delivery

SAN DIEGO – Navy Rear Adm. Kenneth D. Slaght, Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) and the Navy's FORCEnet chief engineer, will conclude a distinguished 35-year career Nov. 3 at a retirement ceremony held at SPAWAR Headquarters.

While serving as SPAWAR Commander since May 2001, Slaght has been responsible for providing information technology and space systems for naval, joint and coalition forces. In addition to developing the FORCEnet architecture, he has also served as the chief engineer for the Navy's command, control, communications, computer and intelligence (C4I) systems.

"FORCEnet has become the central focus of everything we do, and we have aligned SPAWAR to ensure we can deliver FORCEnet capability within the Sea Power 21 vision," said Slaght, who also served as SPAWAR's chief engineer and as SPAWAR vice commander. "It has enabled warfighters to conduct their missions much more effectively and efficiently than they have ever been able to do in the past."

As the acquisition authority for FORCEnet, SPAWAR works closely with the resource provider – Office of the Chief of Naval Operations – and with the operational requirements lead – Naval Network Warfare Command – to ensure the most effective capabilities reach the warfighter.

"Without question, C4I is a critical area that will continue to grow for the Navy, the Department of Defense and the nation," said Slaght. "So as the Navy wrestles with the Quadrennial Defense Review and the global war on terrorism, in addition to major combat operations and balancing force posture to achieve success, there's incredible leverage that FORCEnet provides."

Rear Adm. William Rodriguez, SPAWAR chief engineer, will serve as acting commander until a permanent replacement has been designated.

The SPAWAR Enterprise (<http://enterprise.spawar.navy.mil>)

Headquartered in San Diego, SPAWAR's Office of the Chief Engineer designs the architecture and standards for FORCEnet, the Navy's vision for network centric warfare and an essential element of the Navy's Sea Power 21 philosophy. SPAWAR's organizational partners - the Program Executive Office (PEO) C4I and Space, PEO Space Systems, PEO Information Technology and NMCI Direct Reporting Program Manager - acquire, align and field more than 100 C4I programs and projects to help make FORCEnet a reality. Together, the commands lay the foundation for dramatic increases in current and future readiness while simultaneously implementing FORCEnet and a new era in warfighting capabilities.

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